

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 07451 240804Z

20

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 OMB-01 /150 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4233

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 7451

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, IR

SUBJECT: IRAN HALTS PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST BBC

REF: TEHRAN 7076; TEHRAN 7125

1. THE LAST TWO WEEKS HAS SEEN A CONTINUATION OF HEATED IRANIAN MEDIA CAMPAIGN AGAINST BBC AND TO A LESSER DEGREE AGAINST UK AND ALL ENGLISHMEN. CAMPAIGN REACHED PEAK OF VILIFICATION IN OCTOBER 21 ISSUE OF SEMI-OFFICIAL KAYHAN WITH PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED LETTER-TO-EDITOR WONDERING HOW BRITISH ARMY OF "HOMOSEXUALS" WOULD PERFORM IN WAR TIME. ACCORDING TO BRITISH EMBASSY, LETTER ELICITED TELEPHONE APOLOGY FROM COURT MINISTER ALAM WHO SAID LETTER DID NOT REPRESENT GOI VIEWS. NEXT ISSUE OF KAYHAN CARRIED LETTER DENOUNCING EARLIER LETTER AND PRAISING BRITISH AS FRIENDS AND ALLIES OF IRAN.

2. OFFICIALLY ORCHESTRATED CAMPAIGN AGAINST BBC, WHICH HAS LASTED NEARLY THREE WEEKS, IS PERHAPS MOST NOTABLE RECENT EXAMPLE OF A GOI TENDENCY TO OVER-REACT. BRITISH EMBASSY HOPES THAT ALAM'S INTERCESSION WITH KAYHAN MARKS THE END OF WHAT HAS BEEN, FOR IT, AN UNPLEASANT EPISODE.

HELMS

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Message Attributes

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